



Issues and Concerns

The Water Connection - February 1996

Making Progress:

On Time, Under Budget - Avra Valley Pipeline Repairs

Phase Two repairs to the Avra Valley Pipeline were completed in late January and were finished ahead of schedule and under budget, according to Tucson Water Director Kent McClain. The six mile section repaired extends from Cardinal Road to a point four miles west of Mark Road. The phase was originally estimated to cost \$2 million, but was completed for less than \$1 million.

The final repairs to the pipeline, along Valencia Road from I-19 to Park Avenue, are scheduled for next fall.

During routine maintenance in January 1995, Tucson Water discovered corrosion problems along the 25 mile length of the pipeline which carries 20 percent of the water distributed to customers in the Tucson area. Emergency repairs of the most heavily corroded sections of the line were completed in March of 1995.

3.25 Billion Gallons of CAP Water Flowing On Farms in '96

Billions of gallons of Central Arizona Project water will be used to irrigate wheat, alfalfa, and cotton crops this year by the Cortaro-Marana Irrigation District (CMID) northwest of Tucson. The CAP water is being used in place of groundwater by local farmers. Tucson Water Director Kent McClain said the groundwater savings project agreement with CMID will save 3.25 billion gallons of groundwater to help meet future water needs.

Under the agreement between Tucson Water and CMID, the City sells CAP water to the District at a price competitive with their cost of pumping groundwater. The City gains groundwater savings credits for each gallon of CAP water used.

In 1995, Tucson Water provided CMID with nearly 2 billion gallons of CAP water for irrigation.

Water Audits, Rebates Planned; Conservation Programs Expanding

Although Tucson Water has taken steps to ensure its customers will have enough water this summer, the Department is intensifying its programs promoting water conservation.

In February, the Mayor and Council approved a Water Department plan to offer a water audit program to assist water customers who use high quantities of water to determine why they use so much water and help them with methods of reducing their water use and their water bills. The conservation plan may also offer rebates on water saving devices and provide low-flow water fixtures for some public buildings. More information will be available as the programs are fully developed.

March 27th at the Tucson Convention Center; Public Meeting Will Offer Proposition 200 Options

Alternatives for implementing Proposition 200, the Citizens Water Protection Act, will be discussed at a March 27th public meeting called by Tucson's Mayor and Council. The meeting will be held at the Tucson Convention Center. Tucson Water will present three options for recharging the City's Central Wellfield, as requested by the Mayor and Council. Interested members of the public will have the opportunity to comment. Discussion is also expected on progress in complying with the Act's requirements regarding the use of water from the TCE treatment plant. Watch your local media for more information on the March 27th public meeting.

Source: City of Tucson, Water Department
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